USDA NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Colorado Basin Outlook Report May 1, 2013

This photo was taken on 4/30/13 at the Ironton Park snow course near Red Mountain Pass in the San Juan Mountains. The brown snow surface is a result of multiple dust on snow events associated with the storm systems that moved through the state in April. This dirty snow has been observed across the state this season. Although temperatures were notably cooler than average during April and early May, this year's snowpack could melt quicker than usual as solar radiation is more readily absorbed into the brown snow surface. For more information on dust on snow studies in Colorado please visit the Center for Snow and Avalanche Studies website: http://snowstudies.org/CODOS/index.html

Photo is courtesy of Lars Santana, NRCS Rangeland Management Specialist out of Montrose, CO.

Basin Outlook Reports
and
Federal - State - Private
Cooperative Snow Surveys

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How forecasts are made

Most of the annual streamflow in the western United States originates as snowfall that has accumulated in the mountains during the winter and early spring. As the snowpack accumulates, hydrologists estimate the runoff that will occur when it melts. Measurements of snow water equivalent at selected manual snow courses and automated SNOTEL sites, along with precipitation, antecedent streamflow, and indices of the El Niño / Southern Oscillation are used in computerized statistical and simulation models to prepare runoff forecasts. Unless otherwise specified, all forecasts are for flows that would occur naturally without any upstream influences.

Forecasts of any kind, of course, are not perfect. Streamflow forecast uncertainty arises from three primary sources: (1) uncertain knowledge of future weather conditions, (2) uncertainty in the forecasting procedure, and (3) errors in the data. The forecast, therefore, must be interpreted not as a single value but rather as a range of values with specific probabilities of occurrence. The middle of the range is expressed by the 50% exceedance probability forecast, for which there is a 50% chance that the actual flow will be above, and a 50% chance that the actual flow will be below, this value. To describe the expected range around this 50% value, four other forecasts are provided, two smaller values (90% and 70% exceedance probability) and two larger values (30%, and 10% exceedance probability). For example, there is a 90% chance that the actual flow will be more than the 90% exceedance probability forecast. The others can be interpreted similarly.

The wider the spread among these values, the more uncertain the forecast. As the season progresses, forecasts become more accurate, primarily because a greater portion of the future weather conditions become known; this is reflected by a narrowing of the range around the 50% exceedance probability forecast. Users should take this uncertainty into consideration when making operational decisions by selecting forecasts corresponding to the level of risk they are willing to assume about the amount of water to be expected. If users anticipate receiving a lesser supply of water, or if they wish to increase their chances of having an adequate supply of water for their operations, they may want to base their decisions on the 90% or 70% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. On the other hand, if users are concerned about receiving too much water (for example, threat of flooding), they may want to base their decisions on the 30% or 10% exceedance probability forecasts, or something in between. Regardless of the forecast value users choose for operations, they should be prepared to deal with either more or less water. (Users should remember that even if the 90% exceedance probability forecast is used, there is still a 10% chance of receiving less than this amount.) By using the exceedance probability information, users can easily determine the chances of receiving more or less water.

Colorado
Water Supply Outlook Report
May 1, 2013

Summary

After three consecutive months of below average snow accumulation in Colorado, multiple storm systems in April finally brought the moisture we had been hoping for all season. The state received above average precipitation during April which primarily occurred as snow, and brought snowpack totals to near normal levels in the northern basins. Unfortunately the southern portion of the state did not benefit from these storm systems. Warm and dry conditions dominated the Upper Rio Grande basin, the combined San Juan, Dolores, Animas, & San Miguel basins and the southern tributaries of the Gunnison basins during April. Reservoir storage remains below average across most of the state but conditions should improve in the northern basins as the recent snow begins to runoff. The most recent streamflow forecasts mimic the snow and precipitation conditions across the state; big improvements in the northern basins and further decline in the southern basins. Overall though the water supply outlook this month is better than just a month ago, this just goes to show how big of a difference just a few snowy weeks can make.

Snowpack

The wet weather pattern that started in late March continued into May and brought impressive improvements to snowpack percentages. After four consecutive months of snowpack reports that hovered in the low 70 percent range, the state snowpack recorded a significant gain this past month. Snowpack measurements recorded by automated SNOTEL sites and manual snow surveys across the state showed an increase of 9 percentage points from last month's report. As of May 1 the snowpack was at 83 percent of median. This was a very unusual April, in most years the snow accumulation season ends in early April, and the rest of the month is normally characterized as the beginning of runoff season. The watersheds in the northern part of the state saw the largest benefit from the snowy April, posting increases that ranged from 28 percentage points (in the South Platte basin) to 15 percentage points (in the Yampa and White basins). Unfortunately, basins to the south saw similar changes in their snowpack percentages, but in the opposite direction. The Upper Rio Grande and the combined San Juan, Dolores, Animas, and San Miguel basins saw decreases of 28 to 30 percentage points respectively.

Precipitation

Statewide precipitation, measured by the SNOTEL network, was 114 percent of average this April and 197 percent of last year's April totals. April was only the second month to record above average statewide precipitation this water year, with the previous month being back in December. The relatively wet month increased the water year to date totals to 80 percent of average on May 1, and 103 percent of last year's cumulative precipitation on the same date. Precipitation was quite variable throughout the state in April, it was really a story of the haves and the have not's. The combined Yampa, White and North Platte basins recorded precipitation at146 percent of average for the month, the Colorado basin was at 140 percent of average and the South Platte was at 143 of average. The Gunnison basin ended up at 101 percent of average for the month as a result of half the basin receiving decent precipitation and the other half missing out on the storms. The lowest percent of average for the month was reported in the combined San Juan, Animas, Dolores and San Miguel basins with 48 percent of average.

Reservoir Storage

The cool, wet weather we experienced in April delayed the expected increase in reservoir storage volumes this month. Reservoir storage across the state is at 74 percent of average as of May 1, and 68 percent of last year's May1 storage amounts. The late season snowfall provides an optimistic outlook for storage improvements in the northern basins this spring. The additional runoff in these basins should extend water supplies further into the summer season. In the southern basins, storage levels remain well below average and the probability of vast improvements this season are slim. All in all we are still feeling the effects of the previous bleak winter but some basins should be able to replenish their reservoirs this season.

Streamflow

Most major basins in Colorado saw improvements to their streamflow forecasts this month. The northern basins once again boasted the greatest changes compared to last month; on average April to July forecasts in the combined Yampa, White and North Platte basins, the Colorado basin and the South Platte basin increased by 20 percentage points from those issued last month. A few of the headwater streams in the Colorado and South Platte basins are now expected to see near average flows. Despite these improvements, the majority of the forecasts in these basins still call for below average runoff this spring and summer season. On the flip side, current forecasts for the combined San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basins and the Upper Rio Grande basin call for streamflow volumes in the 30 to 50 percent of average range.

Special Note on Interpreting Forecasts

According to the National Water and Climate Center (NWCC), "a water supply forecast is a prediction of streamflow volume that will flow past a point on a stream during a specified season, typically in the spring and summer. These forecasts are given not as a single number, but as a range of numbers to reflect risk and forecast uncertainty. Each month, five forecasts are issued for each forecast point and each forecast period. Unless otherwise specified, all forecasts are for streamflow volumes that would occur naturally without any upstream influences."

The forecasts we typically emphasize in this report are the 50 percent exceedance probability forecasts because they are in the middle of the range of forecasts with 50 percent chance that actual volumes will be above or below the predicted volume. The 50 percent exceedance forecasts assume that typical weather patterns will prevail into the forecast season. In a water year such as this one, when conditions have been anything but typical, it is important to pay attention to the other forecasts provided. If cool, wet conditions prevail into the rest of this spring and summer it may be prudent to use the 50 or 30 percent exceedance forecasts for management purposes this season. If conditions get very hot and dry this spring, actual streamflow volumes may be more in line with the 50 or 70 percent exceedance forecasts.

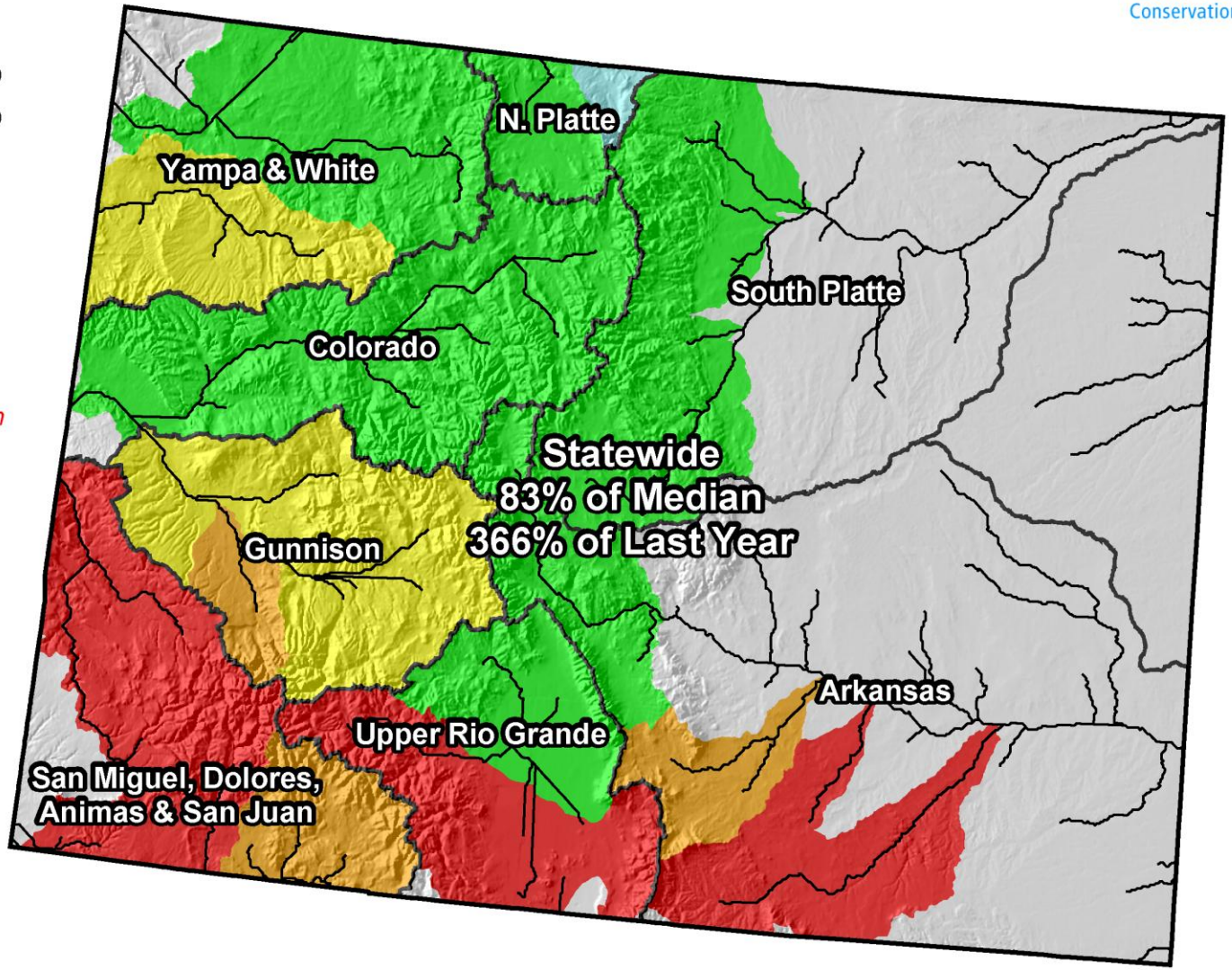
Colorado Snowpack Map

NRCS
Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Percent of Median

- >= 150
- 130 - 149
- 110 - 129
- 90 - 109
- 70 - 89
- 50 - 69
- < 50

Provisional Data
Subject to Revision



Current as of May 1, 2013

Colorado Streamflow Forecast Map

NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Percent of Average

- >= 150
- 130 - 149
- 110 - 129
- 90 - 109
- 70 - 89
- 50 - 69
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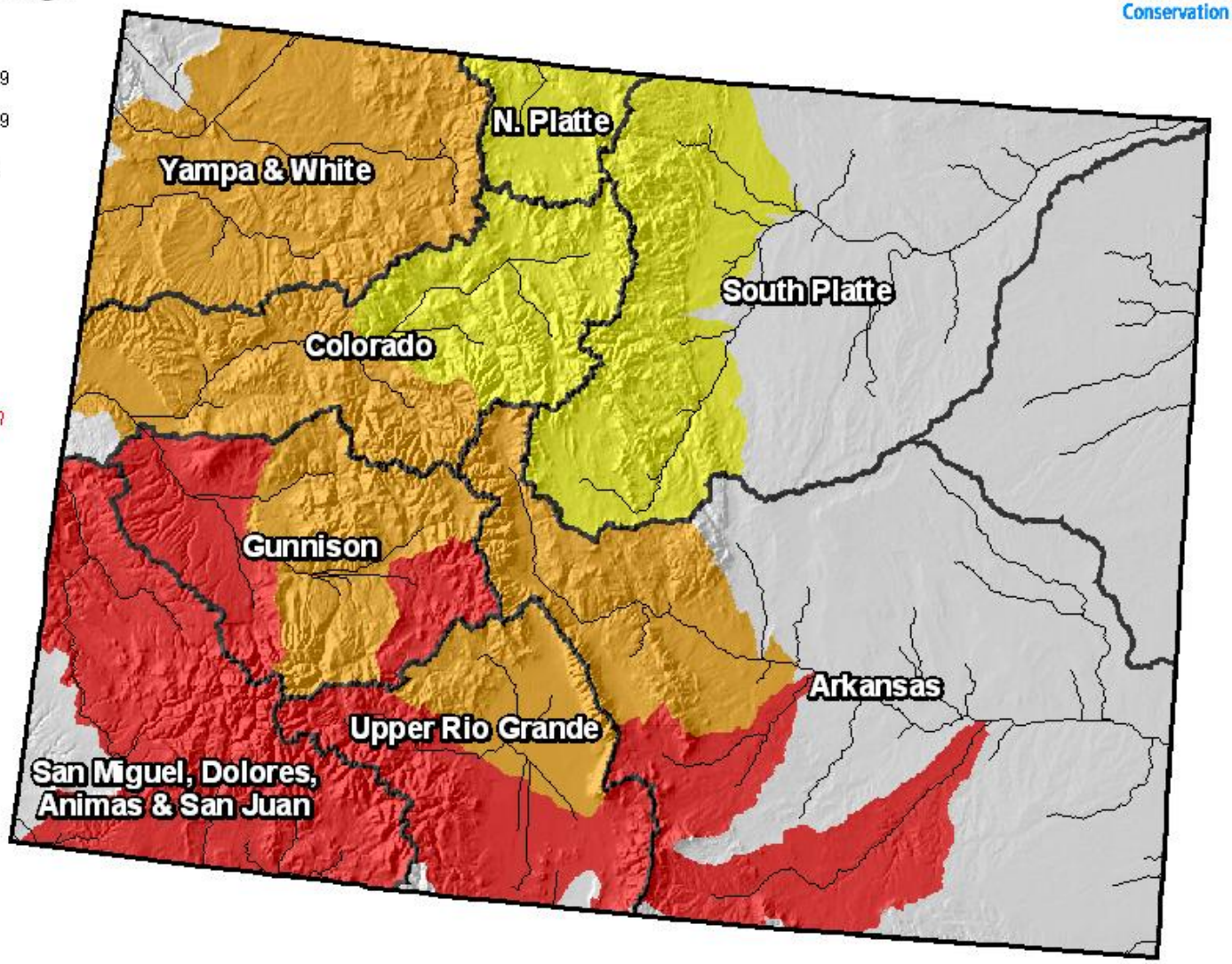
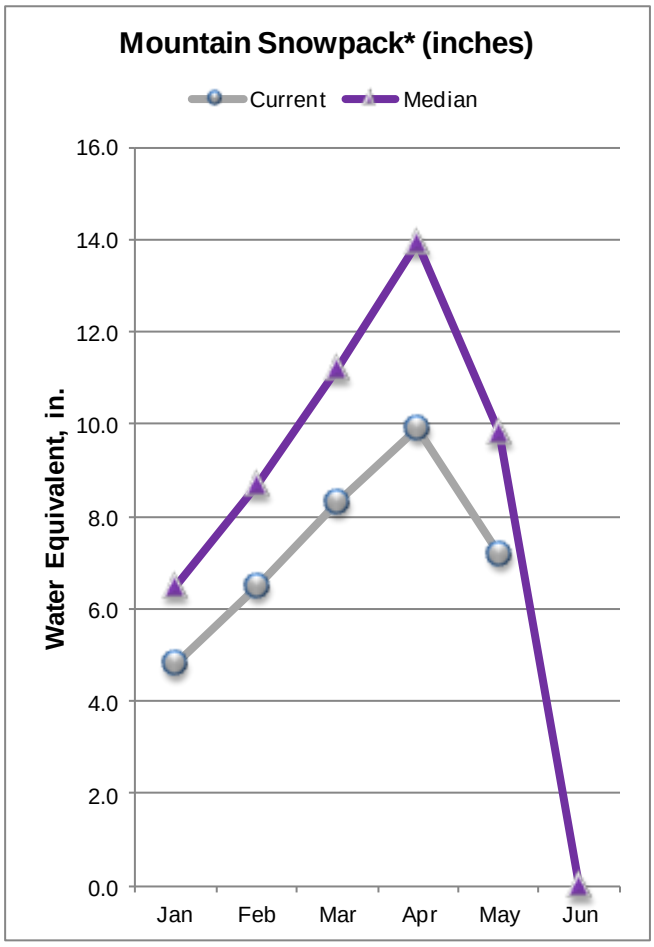
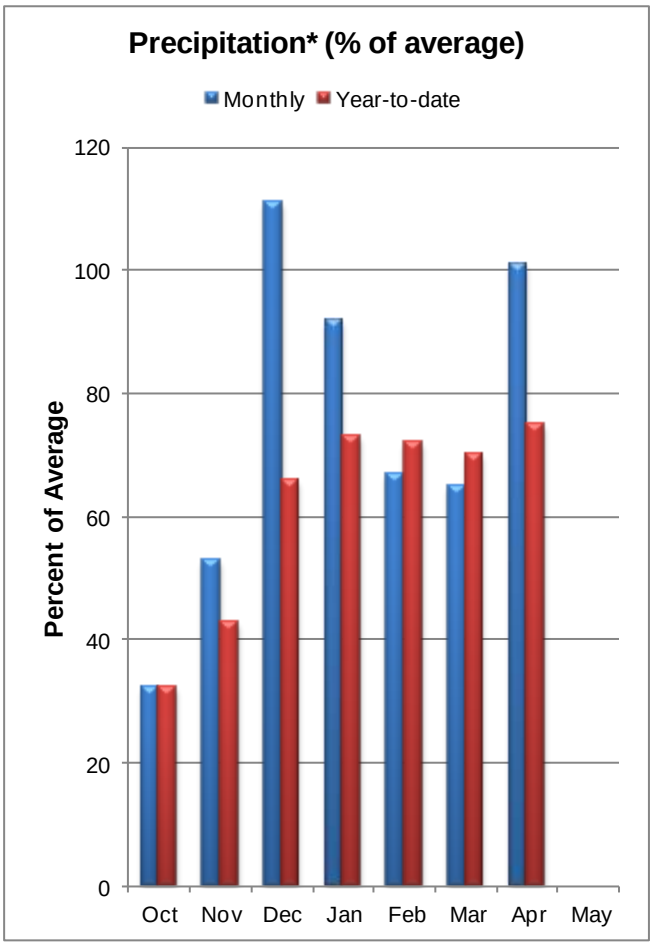


Current as of May 1, 2013

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
as of May 1, 2013





*Based on selected stations

For five consecutive months the snowpack in the Gunnison River basin has maintained a nearly constant percent of median reading. May 1 snow surveys showed the snowpack to be 73 percent of the median compared to 71 percent on April 1, 74 percent on March 1, 75 percent on February 1 and 74 percent on January 1.The snow storms that hit Colorado during April boosted the snowpack in the northern tributaries of the Gunnison basin but generally missed the southern portion of the basin. According to data from automated SNOTEL sites within the basin, peak snow accumulation for this season was reached on April 21st, 11 days later than the typical peak date. Precipitation received in the basin during April was 101 percent of average which helped to boost the year to date precipitation to 75 percent of average as of May 1.

Reservoir storage at the end of April in the basin was 88 percent of average. Total storage amounts increased from 505,000 acre-feet last month to 585, 000 acre-feet this month. Nearly all the current streamflow forecasts for the Gunnison basin have improved slightly compared to those issued last month. The only forecasts that did not see improvements this month were those for the Uncompahgre River. Streamflow volumes from May to July are expected to range from just 34 percent of average for Tomichi Creek at Gunnison and Cochetopa Creek below Rock Creek to 68 percent of average for the Slate River near Crested Butte.

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2013

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Taylor Park Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	50	59	66	67	73	84	99
	MAY-JUL	44	53	60	67	67	78	90
Slate R nr Crested Butte	APR-JUL	43	49	54	65	59	67	83
	MAY-JUL	39	45	50	68	55	63	74
East R at Almont	APR-JUL	91	101	108	59	115	127	182
	MAY-JUL	83	93	100	60	107	119	166
Gunnison R nr Gunnison (2)	APR-JUL	165	195	215	58	240	275	370
	MAY-JUL	149	179	200	60	225	260	335
Tomichi Ck at Sargents	APR-JUL	7.5	10.8	13.6	45	16.8	22	30
	MAY-JUL	4.9	8.2	11.0	42	14.2	19.6	26
Cochetopa Ck bl Rock Ck nr Parlin	APR-JUL	2.9	4.5	6.0	40	7.9	11.4	15.0
	MAY-JUL	0.9	2.5	4.0	34	5.9	9.4	11.9
Tomichi Ck at Gunnison	APR-JUL	14.7	22	29	39	37	52	74
	MAY-JUL	6.6	14.2	21	34	29	44	62
Lake Fk at Gateview	APR-JUL	48	56	62	50	68	78	123
	MAY-JUL	44	52	58	50	64	74	116
Blue Mesa Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	268	312	345	51	379	433	675
	MAY-JUL	223	268	300	50	334	388	600
Paonia Reservoir Inflow (2)	MAR-JUN	30	37	42	44	48	57	96
	MAY-JUN	22	29	34	49	40	49	69
	APR-JUL	27	36	42	43	49	60	97
	MAY-JUL	21	30	36	48	43	54	75
NF Gunnison R nr Somerset (2)	APR-JUL	124	144	159	55	175	200	290
	MAY-JUL	105	125	140	58	156	181	240
Surface Ck at Cedaredge	APR-JUL	5.8	6.8	7.6	45	8.4	9.7	16.8
	MAY-JUL	4.7	5.7	6.5	46	7.3	8.6	14.1
Ridgway Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	36	43	48	48	54	62	101
	MAY-JUL	33	40	45	50	51	59	91
Uncompahgre R at Colona (2)	APR-JUL	41	52	61	45	71	86	137
	MAY-JUL	32	43	52	43	62	77	120
Gunnison R nr Grand Junction (2)	APR-JUL	480	585	660	45	740	875	1480
	MAY-JUL	380	485	560	45	640	775	1240

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
BLUE MESA	830.0	338.0	531.9	404.7
CRAWFORD	14.0	5.8	11.3	12.1
FRUITGROWERS	3.6	3.5	3.4	4.1
FRUITLAND	9.2	4.5	4.9	4.9
MORROW POINT	121.0	106.5	114.7	113.4
PAONIA	15.4	7.0	12.7	7.4
RIDGWAY	83.0	60.4	74.2	57.9
TAYLOR PARK	106.0	59.2	72.8	59.9

GUNNISON RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2013

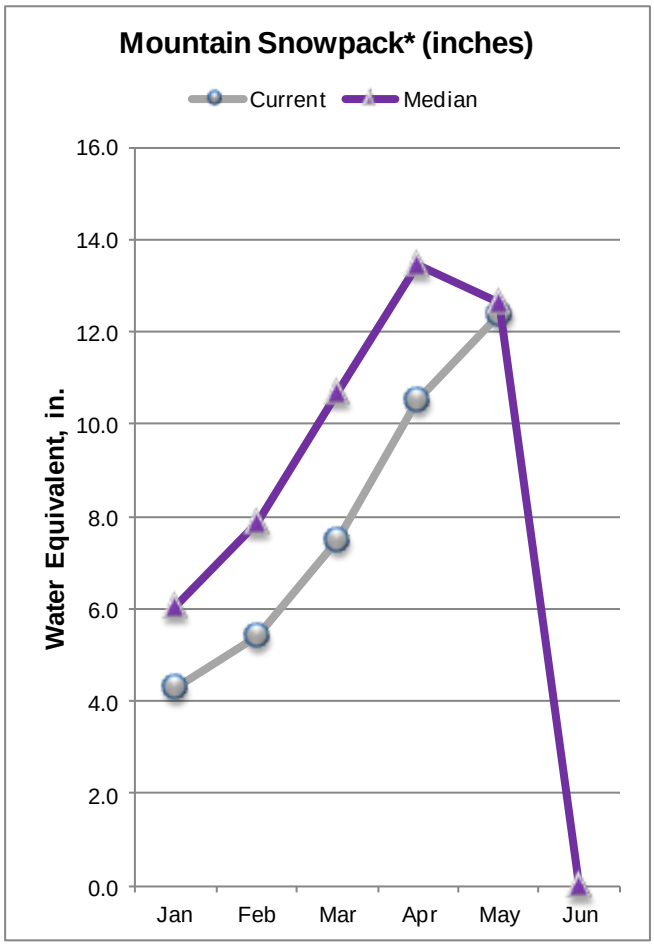
Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Median
UPPER GUNNISON BASIN	15	349	78
SURFACE CREEK BASIN	3	272	85
UNCOMPAHGRE BASIN	4	219	55
TOTAL GUNNISON RIVER BASIN	19	321	73

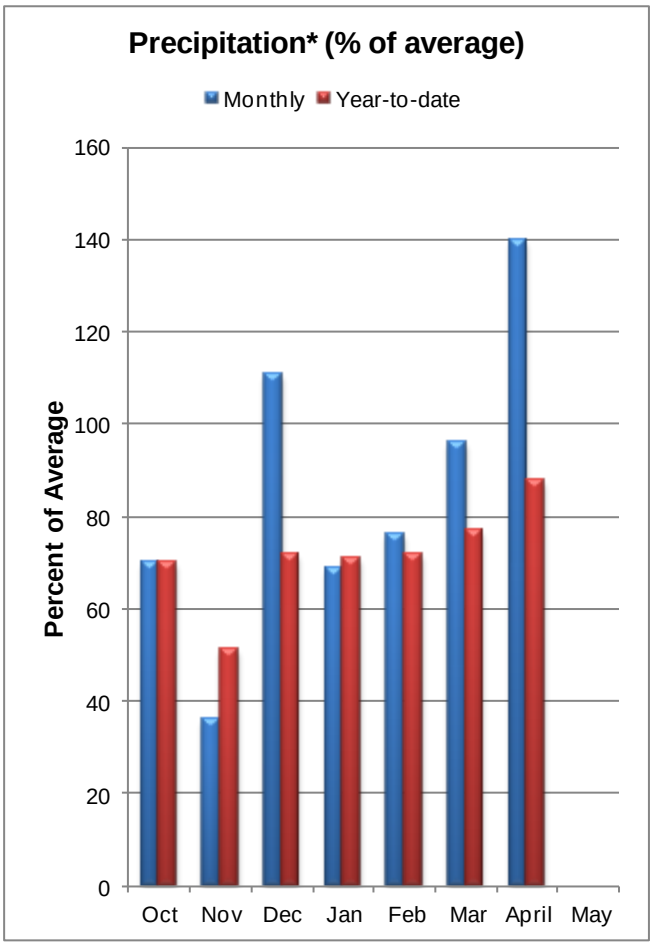
* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1981-2010 base period, except for the reservoir averages which are from 1971-2000.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
as of May 1, 2013





*Based on selected stations

Last month it seemed that there was very little chance that the snowpack in the Colorado River basin would reach normal amounts this season. It turns out that April was the comeback month for this basin thanks to multiple large storm systems and well above average snowfall throughout the month! As of May 1 the snowpack in the basin was at 98 percent of the median a 20 percentage point jump from last month's report. According to data from the SNOTEL sites in the basin, the snowpack also nearly reached normal peak accumulation totals thanks to the April showers. Peak snow accumulation for this season was reached on April 25th and was 94 percent of average peak accumulation totals for the basin. Precipitation in the Colorado basin was 140 percent of average during the month of April, and year to date precipitation is now at 88 percent of average.

Reservoir storage in the Colorado basin didn't fluctuate much compared to last month. Storage volumes were reported to be at 67 percent of average at the end of April. The late season snow received this past month has yet to runoff and should help to replenish the reservoirs in this basin in the coming months. Thanks to the snowy month, streamflow forecasts in the basin have increased an average of 16 percentage points from those issued last month. Forecasts for the lower part of the basin still call for below average flows from May to July but for some of the inflows to reservoirs in the headwater region we can now expect near average flows.

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2013

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Lake Granby Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	165	185	200	91	215	240	220
	MAY-JUL	155	175	190	93	205	229	205
Willow Ck Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	33	41	47	100	53	64	47
	MAY-JUL	30	38	44	102	50	61	43
Williams Fk bl Williams Fk Reservoir	APR-JUL	62	72	80	83	88	100	97
	MAY-JUL	56	67	74	82	82	94	90
Blue R bl Dillon (2)	APR-JUL	105	121	132	81	144	162	163
	MAY-JUL	98	114	125	82	137	155	153
Blue R bl Green Mountain Reservoir	APR-JUL	175	205	225	82	245	280	275
	MAY-JUL	161	189	210	82	232	265	255
Muddy Ck bl Wolford Mtn Reservoir nr	APR-JUL	28	35	40	74	45	54	54
	MAY-JUL	25	31	36	78	41	50	46
Eagle R bl Gypsum (2)	APR-JUL	183	215	240	72	265	305	335
	MAY-JUL	172	205	230	74	256	297	310
Colorado R nr Dotsero (2)	APR-JUL	825	970	1080	77	1190	1370	1400
	MAY-JUL	745	890	1000	78	1110	1290	1280
Ruedi Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	73	85	93	67	102	115	139
	MAY-JUL	70	82	90	69	99	112	130
Roaring Fk at Glenwood Springs (2)	APR-JUL	345	395	430	62	465	525	690
	MAY-JUL	320	369	405	63	442	500	640
Colorado R nr Cameo (2)	APR-JUL	1280	1460	1590	68	1730	1940	2350
	MAY-JUL	1170	1350	1480	69	1620	1830	2150

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1981-2010 base period, except for the reservoir averages which are from 1971-2000.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average.

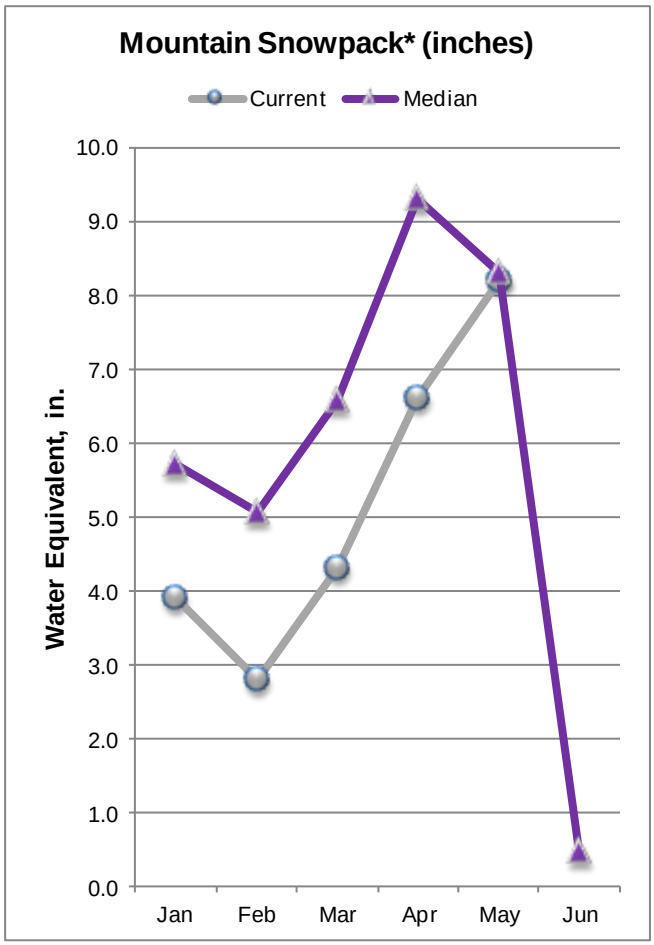
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April

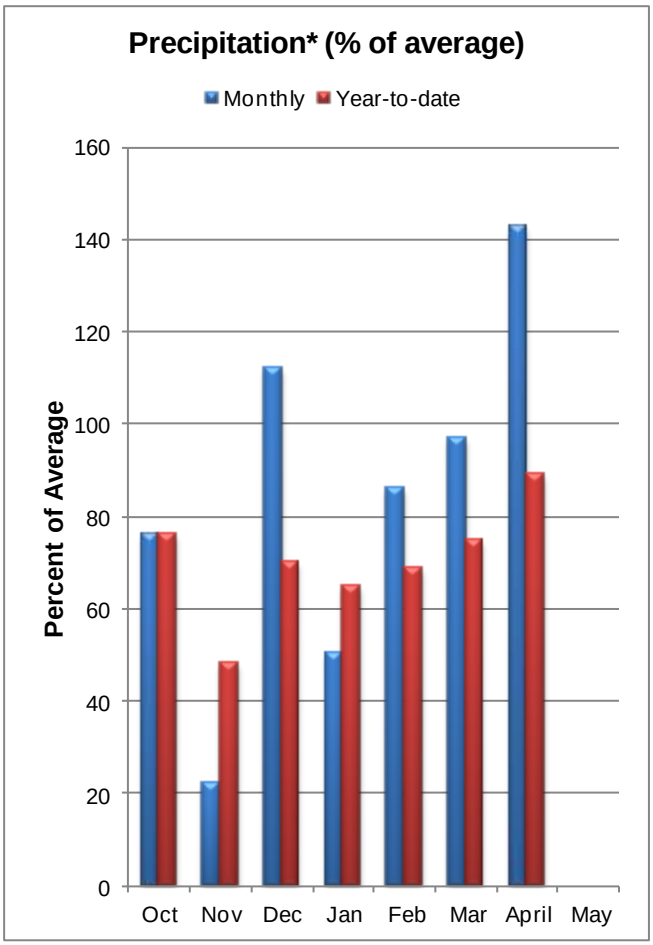
Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
DILLON	254.0	161.8	239.6	212.8
LAKE GRANBY	465.6	107.2	346.1	259.5
GREEN MOUNTAIN	146.8	58.4	81.8	54.3
HOMESTAKE	43.0	0.3	0.3	16.8
RUEDI	102.0	62.5	77.3	59.7
VEGA	32.9	11.3	28.6	16.6
WILLIAMS FORK	97.0	45.4	86.5	55.3
WILLOW CREEK	9.1	6.4	6.4	5.9

UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2013

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Median
BLUE RIVER BASIN	9	320	104
UPPER COLORADO RIVER BASIN	31	340	99
MUDDY CREEK BASIN	2	628	103
PLATEAU CREEK BASIN	3	272	85
ROARING FORK BASIN	8	375	96
WILLIAMS FORK BASIN	3	509	108
WILLOW CREEK BASIN	3	487	129
TOTAL COLORADO RIVER BASIN	42	338	97

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
as of May 1, 2013





*Based on selected stations

The snowpack in the South Platte basin was 99 percent of median on May 1, up considerably from the April 1 measurement of 71 percent of median. This basin showed the greatest improvement in snowpack percentages of all the major basins in the state. Conditions tend to be the most favorable in the northern portion of the basin, ranging from 120 percent of median in the St. Vrain sub basin to 95 percent of median in both the Boulder Creek and the Upper South Platte sub basins. After three consecutive months of below average precipitation, April bounced back with a vengeance producing 143 percent of average mountain precipitation for the month. This boosted the precipitation totals for the water year, which began in October, to 89 percent of average as of May 1.

Reservoir storage in the basin was 87 percent of average and 86 percent of last year's storage at the end of April. The additional snow accumulation in the last month should help to replenish the reservoirs in the basin this spring. All streamflow forecasts in the basin saw major increases from last month's predictions. Forecasts for the Inflows to Spinney Mountain Reservoir and Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir now call for near average streamflow volumes from May to July. Elsewhere in the basin May to July runoff is expected to range from 69 percent of average for the Inflow to Antero Reservoir to 91 percent of average for South Boulder Creek near Eldorado Springs, the Cache la Poudre at Canyon Mouth and the Big Thompson at Canyon Mouth.

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2013

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Antero Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	6.5	8.5	10.1	70	11.9	15.1	14.5
	APR-SEP	7.7	10.4	12.7	71	15.2	19.6	17.8
	MAY-JUL	5.4	7.4	9.0	69	10.8	14.0	13.1
	MAY-SEP	6.6	9.3	11.6	71	14.1	18.5	16.4
Spinney Mountain Res Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	32	39	45	94	51	61	48
	APR-SEP	39	49	57	93	65	79	61
	MAY-JUL	27	34	40	91	46	56	44
	MAY-SEP	34	44	52	93	60	74	56
Elevenmile Canyon Res Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	31	39	45	90	51	61	50
	APR-SEP	38	48	56	88	65	79	64
	MAY-JUL	26	34	40	89	46	56	45
	MAY-SEP	33	43	51	88	60	74	58
Cheesman Lake Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	54	70	83	83	97	119	100
	APR-SEP	67	89	106	84	125	155	126
	MAY-JUL	47	63	76	88	90	112	86
	MAY-SEP	60	82	99	88	118	148	113
South Platte R at South Platte (2)	APR-JUL	90	119	143	79	167	210	180
	APR-SEP	122	158	185	82	215	260	225
	MAY-JUL	79	108	132	85	156	197	156
	MAY-SEP	111	147	174	85	205	250	205
Bear Ck ab Evergreen	APR-JUL	8.0	10.9	13.3	81	16.0	21	16.4
	APR-SEP	10.3	14.4	17.8	85	22	29	21
	MAY-JUL	7.2	10.1	12.5	88	15.2	20	14.2
	MAY-SEP	9.5	13.6	17.0	90	21	28	18.9
Bear Ck at Morrison	APR-JUL	9.8	13.7	17.0	77	21	27	22
	APR-SEP	12.2	17.7	22	79	27	37	28
	MAY-JUL	8.5	12.4	15.7	87	19.5	26	18.1
	MAY-SEP	10.9	16.4	21	88	26	36	24
Clear Ck at Golden	APR-JUL	75	83	90	86	97	108	105
	APR-SEP	90	102	110	86	119	132	128
	MAY-JUL	72	80	87	87	94	105	100
	MAY-SEP	87	99	107	87	116	129	123
St. Vrain Ck at Lyons (2)	APR-JUL	61	69	75	85	81	90	88
	APR-SEP	71	81	88	85	96	108	103
	MAY-JUL	55	63	69	86	75	84	80
	MAY-SEP	65	75	82	86	90	102	95
Boulder Ck nr Orodell (2)	APR-JUL	39	44	47	87	50	56	54
	APR-SEP	44	50	54	86	58	65	63
	MAY-JUL	36	41	44	86	47	53	51
	MAY-SEP	41	47	51	86	55	62	59
S Boulder Ck nr Eldorado Springs(2)	APR-JUL	26	31	34	87	38	43	39
	APR-SEP	29	34	38	88	42	49	43
	MAY-JUL	24	29	32	91	36	41	35
	MAY-SEP	27	32	36	92	40	47	39
Big Thompson R at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	65	74	80	89	86	95	90
	APR-SEP	75	87	96	90	105	117	107
	MAY-JUL	62	71	77	91	83	92	85
	MAY-SEP	72	84	93	91	102	114	102
Cache La Poudre at Canyon Mouth (2)	APR-JUL	160	185	200	89	220	245	225
	APR-SEP	175	205	225	90	245	275	250
	MAY-JUL	150	175	192	91	210	235	210
	MAY-SEP	165	195	215	92	235	265	235

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
ANTERO	19.9	16.1	15.9	15.7
BARR LAKE	30.1	25.9	26.9	28.6
BLACK HOLLOW	6.5	2.3	4.0	4.2
BOYD LAKE	48.4	15.7	39.4	35.2
BUTTON ROCK/RALPH PRICE	16.2	12.7	12.1	13.2
CACHE LA POUDRE	10.1	5.9	10.4	8.9
CARTER	108.9	101.3	86.0	103.0
CHAMBERS LAKE	8.8	1.0	5.7	3.6
CHEESMAN	79.0	50.3	69.6	64.8
COBB LAKE	22.3	11.7	18.8	14.2
ELEVEN MILE	98.0	96.5	99.8	96.4
EMPIRE	36.5	35.3	33.5	33.0
FOSSIL CREEK	11.1	10.7	9.9	8.1
GROSS	41.8	25.8	31.3	20.9
HALLIGAN	6.4	4.7	5.6	4.8
HORSECREEK	14.7	3.6	10.8	14.5
HORSETOOTH	149.7	106.7	133.4	123.0
JACKSON	26.1	24.9	25.9	30.4
JULESBURG	20.5	18.2	20.4	21.3
LAKE LOVELAND	10.3	3.8	8.9	10.1
LONE TREE	8.7	8.0	8.1	7.9
MARIANO	5.4	3.1	3.6	5.0
MARSHALL	10.0	7.5	9.6	7.4
MARSTON	13.0	8.7	8.3	14.5
MILTON	23.5	23.2	23.0	19.2
POINT OF ROCKS	70.6	69.0	66.3	69.8
PREWITT	28.2	23.8	23.9	25.9
RIVERSIDE	55.8	47.1	49.5	57.9
SPINNEY MOUNTAIN	49.0	20.2	44.8	32.1
STANDLEY	42.0	29.0	35.4	35.3
TERRY LAKE	8.0	6.3	7.4	5.7
UNION	13.0	6.3	11.8	11.7
WINDSOR	15.2	11.9	14.8	13.6

SOUTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2013

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Median
BIG THOMPSON BASIN	7	351	97
BOULDER CREEK BASIN	5	439	100
CACHE LA POUDRE BASIN	9	295	102
CLEAR CREEK BASIN	3	308	100
SAINT VRAIN BASIN	3	317	120
UPPER SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	11	590	107
TOTAL SOUTH PLATTE BASIN	38	364	102

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

The average is computed for the 1981-2010 base period, except for the reservoir averages which are from 1971-2000.

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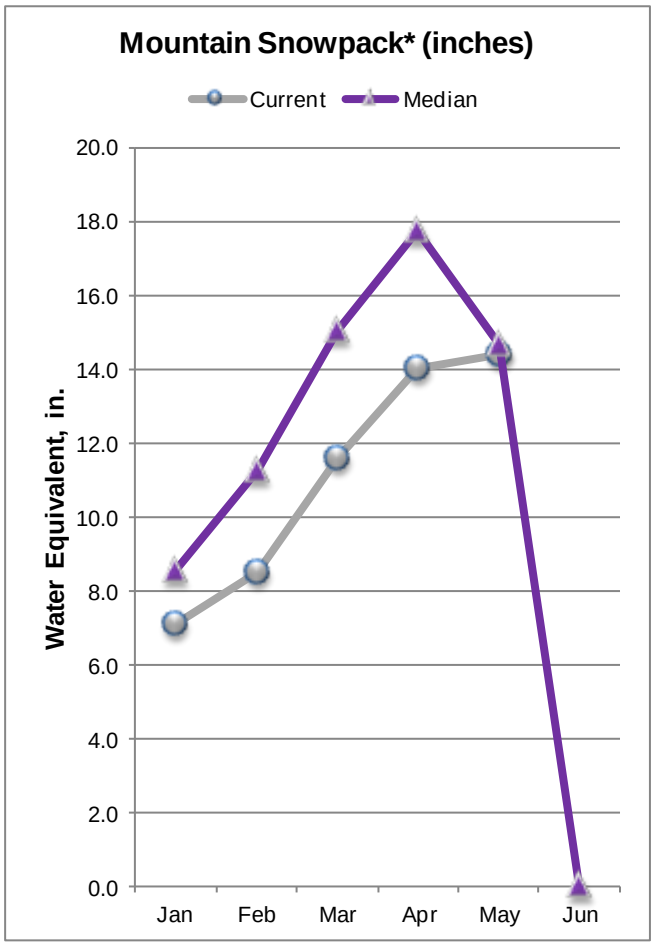
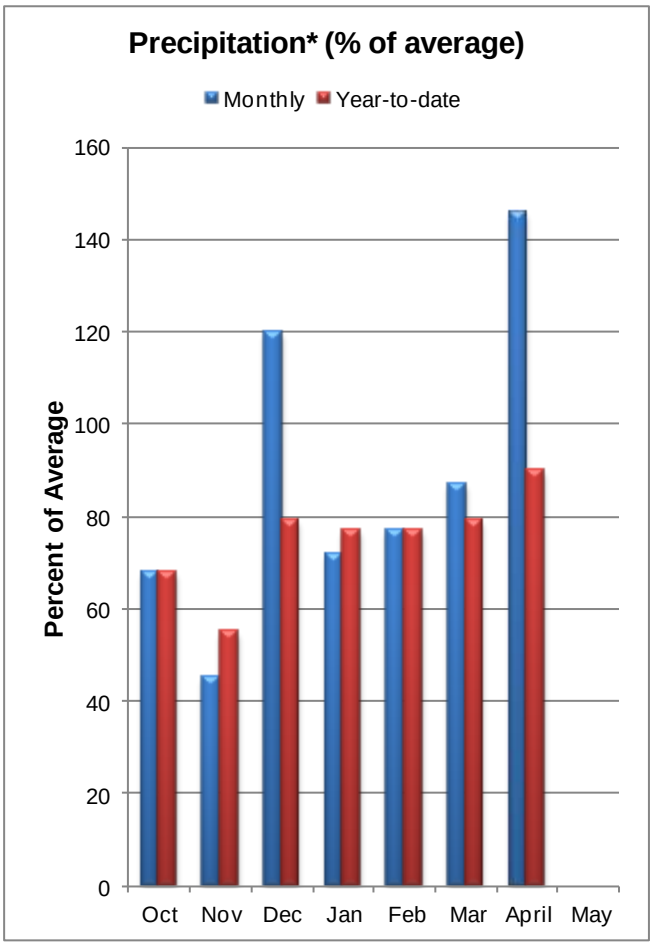
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average.

YAMPA, WHITE, NORTH PLATTE AND LARAMIE RIVER BASINS
as of May 1, 2013





*Based on selected stations

Snow accumulation in the combined Yampa, White, North Platte and Laramie River basins was well above average during April. According the recent snow survey's the basins snowpack jumped from 79 percent of median on April 1 to 98 percent of median on May 1.Typically snowfall during April accounts for about 3 percent of the total peak snowpack, this season was anything but typical with April contributing 19 percent of the seasonal accumulation. Precipitation measured during April in these basins was a whopping 146 percent of average, the most precipitation, as a percent of average, received statewide. Total cumulative precipitation for the water year in these basins is now reported to be 90 percent of average, also the highest report in the state.

Storage in the Yamcolo and Stagecoach reservoirs increased by 5,000 acre-feet of water this past month. Storage in these reservoirs was at 107 percent of the average at the end of April and 84 percent of capacity. Current streamflow forecasts mimic the trends seen in the snow and precipitation data this past month. All forecast points in the basins are now expected to see streamflow volumes that are vast improvements over last year's this season. May to July streamflow volumes are expected to range from 54 percent of average for the Little Snake River near Dixon to 88 percent of average for the Laramie River near Woods Landing.

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2013

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
North Platte R nr Northgate	MAY-JUL	74	122	155	83	188	235	187
	MAY-SEP	80	136	174	83	210	270	210
Laramie R nr Woods	MAY-JUL	61	81	95	88	109	129	108
	MAY-SEP	67	90	105	88	120	143	119
Yampa R ab Stagecoach Reservoir (2)	APR-JUL	12.8	16.2	18.9	82	22	27	23
	MAY-JUL	6.9	10.3	13.0	81	16.0	21	16.0
Yampa R at Steamboat Springs (2)	APR-JUL	145	170	189	73	209	240	260
	MAY-JUL	126	151	170	77	190	221	220
Elk R nr Milner	APR-JUL	176	218	250	78	284	338	320
	MAY-JUL	156	198	230	79	264	318	290
Elkhead Ck ab Long Gulch	APR-JUL	23	31	38	52	46	59	73
	MAY-JUL	14.5	23	30	60	38	51	50
Yampa R nr Maybell (2)	APR-JUL	457	561	640	68	724	859	935
	MAY-JUL	382	487	565	73	649	784	775
Little Snake R nr Slater (2)	APR-JUL	68	82	92	59	103	120	156
	MAY-JUL	62	76	86	62	97	113	138
Little Snake R nr Dixon (2)	APR-JUL	100	140	172	50	207	265	345
	MAY-JUL	86	126	158	54	193	251	295
Little Snake R nr Lily (2)	APR-JUL	108	154	191	55	232	301	345
	MAY-JUL	92	138	175	60	216	285	290
White R nr Meeker	APR-JUL	124	153	174	62	197	234	280
	MAY-JUL	100	129	150	61	173	210	245

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
STAGECOACH	36.4	33.7	34.3	28.1
YAMCOLO	8.7	4.2	6.6	7.4

YAMPA, WHITE, AND NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2013

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Median
LARAMIE RIVER BASIN	4	268	111
NORTH PLATTE RIVER BASIN	7	353	99
TOTAL NORTH PLATTE BASIN	10	326	100
ELK RIVER BASIN	1	4363	97
YAMPA RIVER BASIN	11	489	99
WHITE RIVER BASIN	6	328	89
TOTAL YAMPA AND WHITE RIV	16	460	95
LITTLE SNAKE RIVER BASIN	8	278	91
TOTAL YAMPA, WHITE AND NO	31	366	97

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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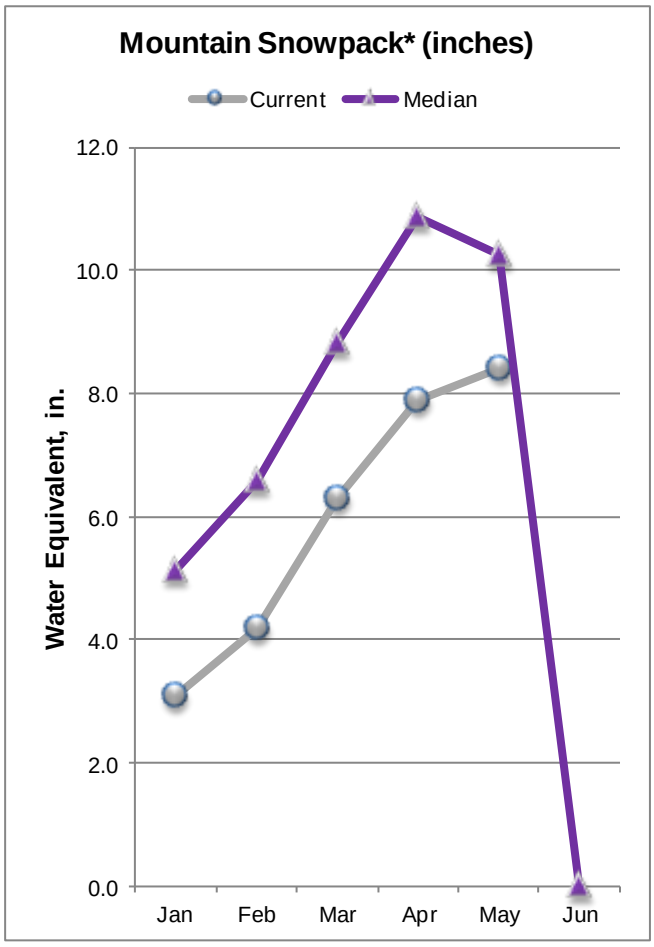
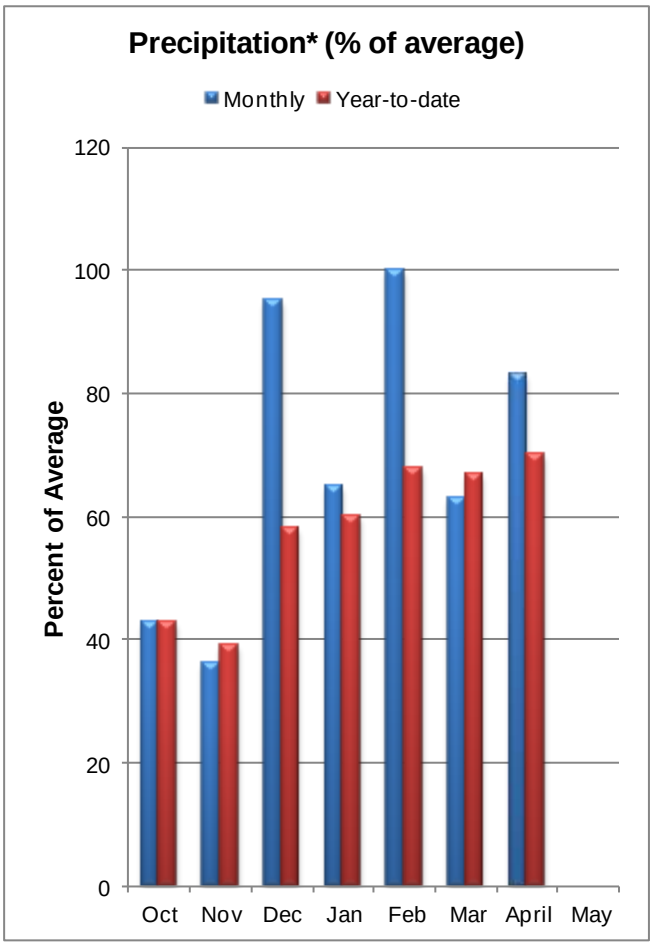
ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
as of May 1, 2013





*Based on selected stations

The Arkansas River basin's snowpack was 82 percent of median as of May 1, an improvement of 9 percentage points from last month's report. Looking at the sub basin's snowpack reports, it is apparent that this springs weather patterns definitely favored the headwaters portion of the basin. The Upper Arkansas sub basin saw an increase from 78 percent of median on April 1 to 93 percent of median May 1. On the other hand, the Purgatoire and Cucharas and Huerfano sub basins saw significant decreases in their snowpack percentages this month. The Purgatoire's snowpack dropped from 48 percent of median to just 17 percent of median and the Cucharas and Huerfano's snowpack decreased from 62 percent of median to 50 percent of median. April precipitation in the basin was 83 percent of median, and year to date precipitation reflects the relatively dry water year so far, at just 70 percent of average. Precipitation totals in the basin have been below average nearly every month so far this water year.

Reservoir storage remains well below normal in the basin at 52 percent of average and 10 percent lower than the amount of storage available at this time last year. Current streamflow forecasts for the basin follow the trends of the current snowpack readings; the Upper Arkansas forecasts improved and the Purgatoire, Cucharas and Huerfano river forecasts declined. Even though it's an improvement over last month, the Arkansas River at Salida is still forecast to have May to July flows that will only be 67 percent of average.

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2013

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Chalk Ck nr Nathrop	APR-JUL	5.8	9.3	12.2	58	15.4	21	21
	MAY-JUL	5.6	9.0	12.0	57	15.2	21	21
	APR-SEP	6.7	11.3	15.1	58	19.4	27	26
	MAY-SEP	6.4	11.0	14.8	57	19.2	27	26
Arkansas R at Salida (2)	APR-JUL	122	147	166	69	186	215	240
	MAY-JUL	111	136	155	67	175	205	230
	APR-SEP	139	174	200	68	230	275	295
	MAY-SEP	128	163	189	68	220	265	280
Grape Ck nr Westcliffe	APR-JUL	2.2	3.6	4.9	31	6.4	9.1	15.9
	MAY-JUL	1.3	2.7	4.0	32	5.5	8.2	12.7
	APR-SEP	2.7	4.5	6.1	31	8.0	11.2	19.6
	MAY-SEP	1.8	3.6	5.2	32	7.1	10.3	16.4
Arkansas R ab Pueblo (2)	APR-JUL	122	173	215	60	260	335	360
	MAY-JUL	109	160	200	61	245	320	330
	APR-SEP	149	220	275	60	335	440	455
	MAY-SEP	136	205	260	61	320	425	425
Huerfano R nr Redwing	APR-JUL	3.1	4.4	5.4	45	6.5	8.4	11.9
	MAY-JUL	2.5	3.8	4.8	45	5.9	7.8	10.7
	APR-SEP	4.1	5.6	6.8	45	8.0	10.2	15.2
	MAY-SEP	3.5	5.0	6.2	44	7.4	9.6	14.0
Cucharas R nr La Veta	APR-JUL	2.6	3.4	4.0	33	4.7	5.8	12.2
	MAY-JUL	2.2	3.0	3.6	33	4.3	5.4	10.8
	APR-SEP	2.8	3.9	4.7	33	5.6	7.1	14.1
	MAY-SEP	2.4	3.5	4.3	34	5.2	6.7	12.7
Purgatoire R at Trinidad (2)	MAR-JUL	5.3	8.2	10.6	29	13.4	18.2	37
	MAY-JUL	3.6	6.5	8.9	30	11.7	16.5	30
	APR-SEP	5.7	10.2	14.0	30	18.5	26	47
	MAY-SEP	5.0	9.5	13.3	32	17.8	25	42

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
ADOBE	62.0	6.8	35.3	34.3
CLEAR CREEK	11.4	7.2	7.6	6.0
CUCHARAS RESERVOIR	40.0	0.1	0.1	6.9
GREAT PLAINS	150.0	0.0	---	40.6
HOLBROOK	7.0	0.0	---	4.7
HORSE CREEK	27.0	0.0	---	11.3
JOHN MARTIN	616.0	28.8	37.5	123.7
LAKE HENRY	8.0	4.9	7.3	6.0
MEREDITH	42.0	19.2	30.2	20.1
PUEBLO	354.0	166.9	230.3	163.5
TRINIDAD	167.0	12.2	19.7	29.1
TURQUOISE	127.0	24.0	67.4	70.8
TWIN LAKES	86.0	21.8	34.4	41.3

ARKANSAS RIVER BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2013

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Median
UPPER ARKANSAS BASIN	10	287	93
CUCHARAS & HUERFANO RIVER	4	308	42
PURGATOIRE RIVER BASIN	2	0	17
TOTAL ARKANSAS RIVER BASI	15	291	79

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table.

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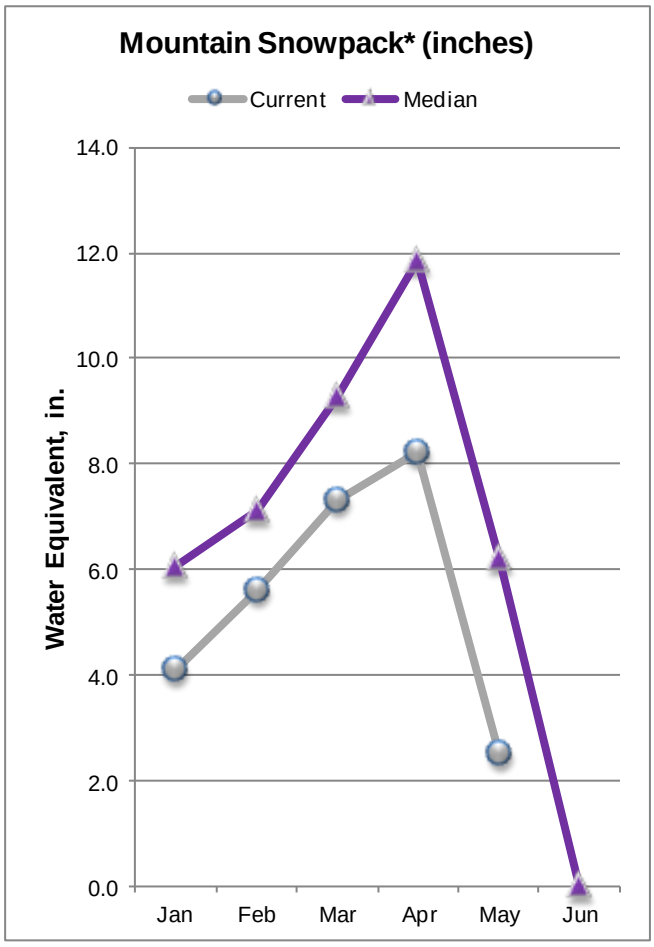
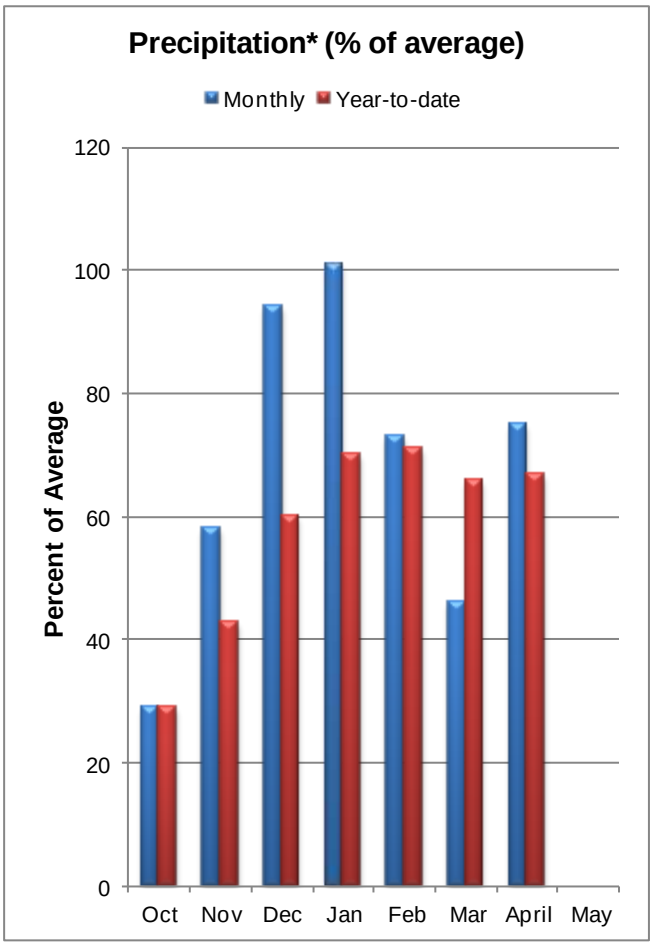
UPPER RIO GRANDE RIVER BASIN
as of May 1, 2013





*Based on selected stations

The Upper Rio Grande basin missed out on all the moisture brought by the storm systems that hit the northern part of the state in April. The snowpack in the basin receded from 69 percent of median on April 1 to just 41 percent of median on May 1, this is the lowest snowpack percentage reported statewide. According to reading's from SNOTEL sites in this basin, the snowpack peaked in late March and began to melt in earnest in April. Monthly precipitation totals for April were 75 percent of average, in fact the only month this water year where precipitation measured was normal was January. Year to date totals for the basin were 67 percent of average as of May 1, which is just 82 percent of totals recorded last year at this time.

Reservoir storage in the Upper Rio Grande basin is 54 percent of average and 77 percent of the storage present a year ago. Streamflow forecasts across the basin have declined for the second month in a row. Water users in the region can expect well below average runoff during the May to September season. Streamflow volumes during this time are expected to range from 53 percent of average for the Inflow to Platoro Reservoir to 11 percent of average for the San Antonio River at Ortiz.

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2013

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> Chance Of Exceeding * 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Rio Grande at Thirty Mile Bridge (2	APR-SEP	43	53	61	47	69	83	129
	MAY-SEP	38	48	56	46	64	78	122
	APR-JUL	39	47	53	47	59	69	113
	MAY-JUL	34	42	48	45	54	64	106
Rio Grande at Wagon Wheel Gap (2)	APR-SEP	119	142	160	47	179	210	340
	MAY-SEP	101	124	142	45	161	191	315
SF Rio Grande at South Fork (2)	APR-SEP	44	50	55	43	60	68	127
	MAY-SEP	35	41	46	41	51	59	113
Rio Grande nr Del Norte (2)	APR-SEP	172	205	225	44	250	290	515
	MAY-SEP	145	177	200	43	225	265	470
Saguache Ck nr Saguache (2)	APR-SEP	9.2	13.0	16.0	50	19.4	25	32
	MAY-SEP	6.9	10.7	13.7	47	17.1	23	29
Alamosa Ck ab Terrace Reservoir	APR-SEP	21	26	30	44	34	40	68
	MAY-SEP	19.4	24	28	45	32	38	62
La Jara Ck nr Capulin	MAR-JUL	2.1	2.7	3.3	37	4.0	5.1	8.9
	MAY-JUL	0.8	1.4	2.0	36	2.7	3.8	5.6
Trinchera Ck ab Turners Ranch	APR-SEP	3.3	4.3	5.0	40	5.8	7.1	12.6
	MAY-SEP	2.8	3.8	4.5	39	5.3	6.6	11.6
Sangre de Cristo Ck (2)	APR-SEP	1.4	2.6	3.9	24	5.6	8.7	16.3
	MAY-SEP	0.4	1.6	2.9	23	4.6	7.7	12.7
Ute Ck nr Fort Garland	APR-SEP	2.4	3.9	5.1	40	6.5	8.9	12.8
	MAY-SEP	1.9	3.4	4.6	40	6.0	8.5	11.6
Platoro Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	23	27	30	54	33	38	56
	MAY-JUL	21	25	28	53	31	36	53
	APR-SEP	25	30	33	53	37	42	62
	MAY-SEP	23	28	31	53	35	40	59
Conejos R nr Mogote (2)	APR-SEP	65	78	87	45	97	112	194
	MAY-SEP	57	70	79	45	89	104	177
San Antonio R at Ortiz	APR-SEP	1.5	1.8	2.2	14	2.6	3.4	15.6
	MAY-SEP	0.3	0.6	1.0	11	1.4	2.2	9.4
Los Pinos R nr Ortiz	APR-SEP	18.3	22	24	33	27	31	73
	MAY-SEP	12.9	16.2	18.6	31	21	25	61
Culebra Ck at San Luis (2)	APR-SEP	3.1	5.4	7.3	32	9.6	13.6	23
	MAY-SEP	2.3	4.6	6.5	31	8.8	12.7	21
Costilla Reservoir Inflow (2)	MAR-JUL	2.8	3.7	4.5	41	5.4	6.8	11.1
	MAY-JUL	1.8	2.7	3.5	39	4.4	5.9	8.9
Costilla Ck nr Costilla (2)	MAR-JUL	4.9	6.8	8.5	33	10.5	13.9	26
	MAY-JUL	2.0	3.9	5.6	29	7.6	11.1	19.6

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
CONTINENTAL	27.0	8.9	6.8	6.6
PLATORO	60.0	8.9	15.2	23.3
RIO GRANDE	51.0	14.7	21.0	21.4
SANCHEZ	103.0	7.3	9.0	25.8
SANTA MARIA	45.0	7.3	7.5	11.1
TERRACE	18.0	4.4	7.8	7.8

UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2013

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	This Year as % of Median
ALAMOSA CREEK BASIN	2	0	4
CONEJOS & RIO SAN ANTONIO	4	449	31
CULEBRA & TRINCHERA CREEK	4	0	36
UPPER RIO GRANDE BASIN	11	164	45
TOTAL UPPER RIO GRANDE BA	20	245	40

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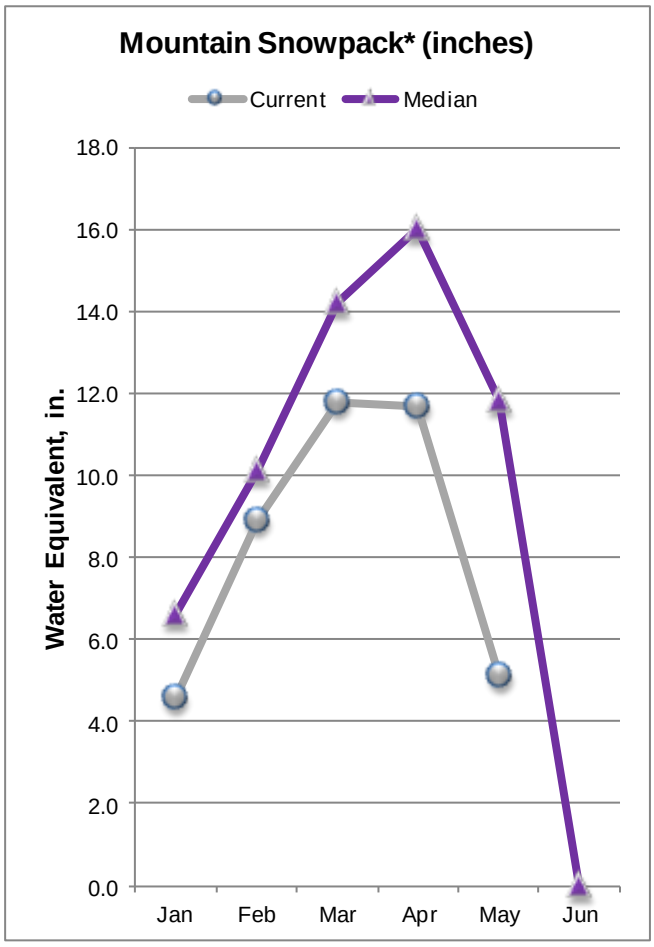
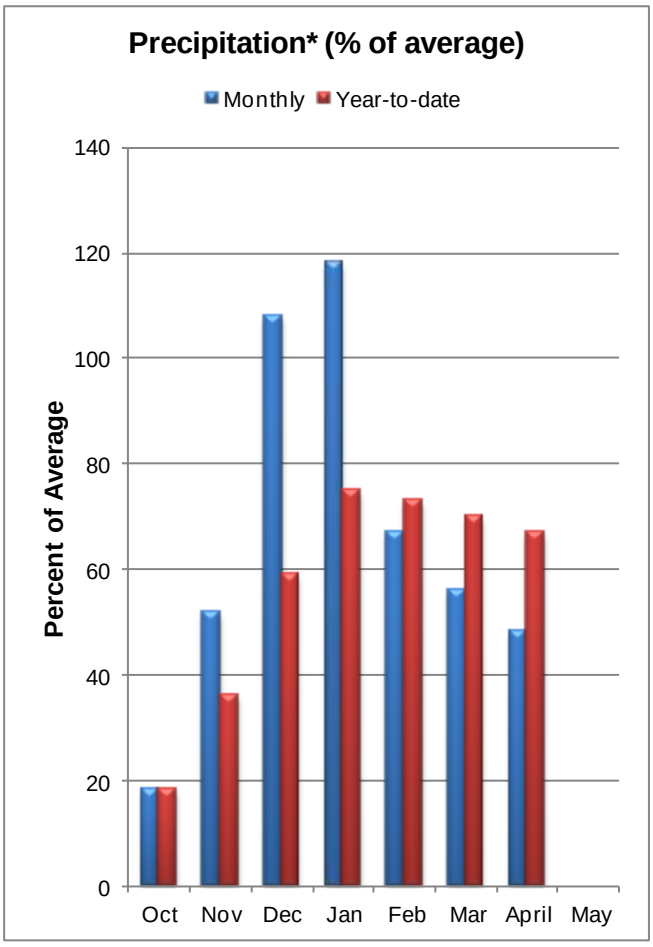
SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS as of May 1, 2013





*Based on selected stations

With the April storm systems completely missing this region, the snowpack in the San Miguel, Dolores, Animas, and San Juan basins began to melt this past month. These basins reached their peak snowpack on March 22nd, with the peak accumulation total this season being only 74 percent of the average maximum accumulation for these basins. As of May 1 the snowpack was only 43 percent of the median, a 30 percentage point decline from the April 1 report. Total precipitation recorded at the SNOTEL sites in these basins during April was a just 48 percent of the long term average amounts. Year to date precipitation declined for the fourth consecutive month to just 67 percent of average as of May 1.

With snow melt already occurring in these basins the reservoirs were able to increase their volumes slightly this past month. Reservoir storage was at 67 percent of average for this time of year and 49 percent of capacity. Forecasts in these basins dropped significantly for the second month in a row, declining by 11 percentage points on average. The largest decreases were in the Dolores River basin, whose two forecasts dropped 14 percentage points this past month. Runoff for the May to July period is expected to range from 37 percent of average for the Inlet to Cone Reservoir to 49 percent of average for the Inflow to Vallecito Reservoir. Elsewhere the Dolores River at Dolores is expected to see flows that are 40 percent of average for May to July.

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Streamflow Forecasts - May 1, 2013

Forecast Point	Forecast Period	<<====== Drier ====== Future Conditions ======= Wetter =====>> 90% (1000AF)	70% (1000AF)	50% (1000AF)	50% (% AVG.)	30% (1000AF)	10% (1000AF)	30-Yr Avg. (1000AF)
Dolores R at Dolores	APR-JUL	69	85	97	40	110	130	245
	MAY-JUL	52	68	80	40	93	113	200
McPhee Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	74	90	102	35	115	136	295
	MAY-JUL	57	73	85	39	98	119	220
San Miguel R nr Placerville	APR-JUL	41	50	57	45	64	76	128
	MAY-JUL	34	43	50	44	57	69	113
Gurley Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	5.1	6.7	8.0	49	9.4	11.8	16.4
	MAY-JUL	4.1	5.6	6.9	48	8.3	10.8	14.3
Cone Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	0.3	0.8	1.3	43	2.0	3.3	3.0
	MAY-JUL	0.3	0.6	1.0	37	1.5	2.5	2.7
Lilylands Reservoir Inlet	APR-JUL	0.5	0.7	0.9	47	1.1	1.5	1.9
	MAY-JUL	0.4	0.6	0.8	48	1.0	1.4	1.7
Rio Blanco at Blanco Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	18.5	22	25	46	27	32	54
	MAY-JUL	13.6	17.1	19.7	44	22	27	45
Navajo R at Oso Diversion (2)	APR-JUL	22	26	29	45	32	38	65
	MAY-JUL	16.6	21	24	44	27	33	54
San Juan R nr Carracas (2)	APR-JUL	117	139	156	41	174	200	380
	MAY-JUL	86	108	125	42	143	171	300
Piedra R nr Arboles	APR-JUL	66	79	89	42	100	117	210
	MAY-JUL	40	53	63	41	74	91	153
Vallecito Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	81	91	99	51	107	119	194
	MAY-JUL	66	76	84	49	92	104	171
Navajo Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	205	240	270	37	295	345	735
	MAY-JUL	133	170	197	35	225	275	565
Animas R at Durango	APR-JUL	133	154	170	41	186	210	415
	MAY-JUL	113	134	150	41	166	192	365
Lemon Reservoir Inflow (2)	APR-JUL	19.9	23	26	47	29	34	55
	MAY-JUL	16.4	20	23	47	26	31	49
La Plata R at Hesperus	APR-JUL	7.2	8.3	9.2	40	10.1	11.6	23
	MAY-JUL	5.3	6.4	7.3	40	8.2	9.7	18.2
Mancos R nr Mancos (2)	APR-JUL	7.2	8.9	10.1	33	11.4	13.5	31
	MAY-JUL	6.3	8.0	9.2	38	10.5	12.6	24

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Reservoir Storage (1000 AF) - End of April

Reservoir	Usable Capacity	*** Usable Storage *** This Year	Last Year	Avg
GROUNDHOG	22.0	7.6	8.8	14.2
JACKSON GULCH	10.0	2.9	8.0	7.4
LEMON	40.0	11.5	27.5	23.4
MCPHEE	381.0	197.9	340.9	304.6
NARRAGUINNEP	19.0	11.9	19.0	17.1
VALLECITO	126.0	62.7	116.9	70.3

SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES, ANIMAS, AND SAN JUAN RIVER BASINS
Watershed Snowpack Analysis - May 1, 2013

Watershed	Number of Data Sites	This Year as % of Last Yr	Median
ANIMAS RIVER BASIN	8	122	36
DOLORES RIVER BASIN	5	168	33
SAN MIGUEL RIVER BASIN	5	130	19
SAN JUAN RIVER BASIN	4	169	54
TOTAL SAN MIGUEL, DOLORES AN JUAN RIVER BASINS	21	145	42

* 90%, 70%, 50%, 30%, and 10% chances of exceeding are the probabilities that the actual volume will exceed the volumes in the table
The average is computed for the 1981-2010 base period, except for the reservoir averages which are from 1971-2000.

(1) - The values listed under the 10% and 90% Chance of Exceeding are actually 5% and 95% exceedance levels.
(2) - The value is natural volume - actual volume may be affected by upstream water management.
(3) - Median value used in place of average.

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In addition to the basin outlook reports, water supply forecast information for the Western United States is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the National Weather Service monthly, January through May. The information may be obtained from the Natural Resources Conservation Service web page at http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/wsf/westwide.html

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